

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Attached is a Submission of Replacement Drawing Sheets including a change to each of Figs. 1 and 2. These Replacement Drawing Sheets, which include all of Figs. 1-8 in this application, replace the previously-filed drawing sheets. In these Replacement Drawing Sheets, Figs. 1 and 2 have been amended to include the label --PRIOR ART--, in response to the Examiner's comments at page 2, section 1 of the Office Action.

REMARKS**Summary of the Office Action**

The drawings stand objected to because of alleged informalities.

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S.

Patent No. 6,208,084 to Urakabe et al. (hereinafter "Urakabe").

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Urakabe in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,612,611 to Matthes et al. (hereinafter "Matthes").

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants have amended the drawings to improve their form. Applicants have canceled claims 2 and 3 without prejudice or disclaimer, amended claim 1, and added new claims 5 and 6, in order to differently describe embodiments of the disclosure of the instant application.

Accordingly, claims 1 and 4-6 are currently pending and are currently under consideration.

Objection to the Drawings

The drawings are objected to because of particular alleged informalities as set forth by the Examiner at page 2, section 1 of the Office Action. In particular, the Examiner alleges that Figs. 1 and 2 should be labeled --Prior Art--. Accordingly, the Examiner requires appropriate correction to the drawings.

In response to the Examiner's requirement, Applicants concurrently submit herewith a Submission of Replacement Drawing Sheets in which Figs. 1 and 2 are amended to include the label --Prior Art-- in accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestion. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Urakabe. Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Urakabe in view of Matthes. Applicants have amended claim 1 to differently describe embodiments of the disclosure of the instant application. To the extent that these rejections might be deemed to apply to the claims as newly-amended, they are respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Applicants respectfully submit that Urakabe relates to a display device including a display panel using AC discharge having the structure shown in Figs. 1-3. A common electrode 110 is provided on the front substrate 101 and connected to one of a pair of transparent electrodes 108. An individual electrode 109 is connected to the other of the pair of transparent electrodes 108 (col. 9, lines 29-32).

Fig. 8 shows a timing chart of the voltage waveforms of the common electrode 110 and the individual electrode 109. As shown in Fig. 8(b), two-stage pulses are applied to the common electrode 110. As shown in Fig. 8(a), a predetermined voltage V_a is applied to the individual electrode 109, so as not to cause emissions. When the predetermined voltage V_a is not applied to the individual electrode 109, emissions are produced.

In order to clarify the differences between the present invention and the disclosure of Urakabe briefly described above, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 of the instant application to incorporate features similar to those previously recited in canceled claims 2 and 3.

Technical features corresponding to the subject matter of newly-amended independent claim 1 of the instant application are described, for example, at pages 19-21 of the specification with reference to Figs. 7A to Fig. 7D of the instant application.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that, at pages 15-19, the drawback associated with the presence of a parasitic diode is described. In the conventional drive circuit, the current flowing through the parasitic diode prevented a power reduction, according to the basic principle, even if the output terminal to the Z (column) electrodes is maintained in a high impedance state. Accordingly, the features of newly-amended independent claim 1 of the instant application are neither shown nor suggested in the applied art of record.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn because neither Urakabe nor Matthes, whether taken separately or in combination, teach or suggest each feature of independent claim 1, as amended. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully assert that dependent claim 4 is also allowable at least because of its dependence from independent claim 1, and the reasons set forth above.

Applicants have added new independent claim 5 which includes similar features as discussed above with regard to newly-amended independent claim 1. Accordingly, similar arguments as discussed above with regard to newly-amended independent claim 1 also apply to newly-presented independent claim 5. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully assert that newly-presented dependent claim 6 is also allowable at least because of its dependence from independent claim 5, and the reasons set forth above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the pending claims currently under consideration are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request reconsideration and timely allowance of these claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after

consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution. A favorable action is awaited.

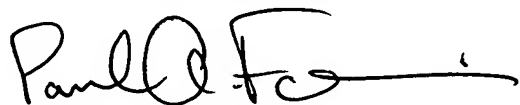
EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0573. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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